Handing over rights on rivers to private corporations

4081. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the water rights on four rivers in Chhattisgarh have been handed over to private consortia;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) how many rivers in the country have been handed over to private consortia; and

(d) whether there is any constitutional approval for handing over rights on rivers to private corporations?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) The Government of Chhattisgarh has informed that no water rights on any river in Chhattisgarh has been handed over to private consortia.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) State Governments have not informed about handing over of any of the rivers in the country to private consortia.

(d) No, Sir.

Conference on safe drinking water supply

4082. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken, till date, to provide safe drinking water supply to every habitation in rural/urban areas as per decision taken at the two days State Minister's Conference held in New Delhi in January-February, 2006;

(b) whether any action plan was chalked out at about mentioned Conference, if so, the details thereof and follow-up action taken thereon, till date; and

(c) what budgetary allocations were made during 2006-07 in comparison to 2005-06?